THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The periodicity of publication of Telephone directories is once a year.

(c) New Telephone Drectories are to be distributed soon after the receipt of printed directories in adequate numbers.

(d) The Telephone Directory of Aurangabad was last printed in February 1991. There was no delay in the distribution of directories as 83% of the subscribers collected the new directories within one month.

(e) Does, not arise.

Abolition of Customs Duty on Import of Amateur Radio Equipment

1395. Dr. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUCATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Finance Ministry to reduce the Customs Duty on import of Amateur Radio Equip ment ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereon ; and

(c) by when the orders are likely to be issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Finance have recently informed of their inability to agree to any further reduction of customs duty on import of Amateur Radio Equipment.

Review of Indian Economy by Assocham

@ 1396. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the mid year review of Indian economy by ASSOCHAM in which it was stated that populist schemes are weakening the economic stabilisation ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Govern ment thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) On the occasion of the Indepeadence Day, the 15th August, 1993 the Prime Minister Announced three new schemes namely Mahila Sam-ridhi Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the Educated Unemployed Youths and Assured Employment for Rural poors in the revamped PDS Blocks. The objective of the first scheme is to promote self-reliance and achieve a measure of economic independence among Women; the second scheme aims to provide employment to about 10 lakh educated unemployed urban youths in micro-eventerprises and the objective of the last scheme is to provide about 100 days of assured casual manual labour employment during the lean agricultural season to all persons above 18 years of age and below 60 years in rural area for two persons per family of the rural poor who are needy and want work.

The economic reforms are aimed at improving the living standards of all of our people and not just the better-off sections.

Externally aided central sector projects In the country

@@ 1397. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the externally aided central sector projects in the country whose execution have been unsatisfactory;

(b) what is the period for which these projects have been delayed stating the reasons for delay in their implementation;

(c) what is the estimated cost escalation in each of the projects ; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to implement the projects to avoid further cost escalation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINIS- TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) Extremaly aided Central projects in the country:

@ Previously Unstarred Questions 384 Transferred from 6th December, 1993.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 386 Transferred from 6th December, 1993.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for Delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Project. (World Bank)	April, 1996/ Dec., 1998	(i) Poor Industrial relations due to transfer of employees from HPSEB to Nathpa Jhakri Power Project. (ii) Review of decision regarding selection of turbine and proposals for financing the project as per suggestion of World Bank. (iii) Finalisation of Bidding documents for civil work.	Rs. 2935.98 cr./ Rs. 4613.59 cr.	Issues involved in delay have been resolved and the project is now progressing.
2	Farakka Thermal Power Project Stag II 500 MW (World Bank)	Oct. 1993/ Delayed by 2-4 months	(i) Award of contracts—this was the first 500 MW package processed under ICB (ii) Loss of implements during construction due to storm in March, 1988 (iii) Frequent sliding during foundation excavation, resulting in additional work in civil works. (iv) Delay in delivery of generator transformer by Yugoslavian Company due to civil distiurbances there. (v) Intermittent law and order problems in the State of West Bengal.	Rs. 1003.38 cr./ Rs. 1702.03 cr.	Issues involved in delay have been resolved and the project is now progressing.
3	NARP-II (World Bank)	30-6-1993/ 30-6-1994	Slow progress made by agricultural universities of Himachal Pradesh & Bihar.	Rs. 46.50 cr.	State Governments asked to take necessary steps/measures.
4	Vocational Training (World Bank)	31-3-1996		Rs. 687.79 cr.	The World Bank has described this project to be a 'Problem project' on account of failure to comply with stipulated benchmarks relating to staffing, training & technical assistance, Min of Labour have been drawn up an Action Plan to attend to these points on a periority basis.

5	National Highway-I (L.N. 2534-IN) (World Bank)	31-12-1992/ 31-12-93	Failure of contracts, non-performance by contractors and delay in awarding contracts.	Original Loan-US $200 mln./ Revised Loan US $ 133 mln.	Contract packages which are not progressing satisfactorily were taken out of World Bank funding.
6	Cement Industry (LN. 2660-IN) (World.Bank)	30-6-1992/ 30-6-1994	Delay in implementation of project by beneficiary cement companies.	Original Loan-US $135 mln. Revised Loan US $135 mln.	All the project components are expected to be completed by loan closing data of 30-6-94.
7	9th Telecom (LN. 2813-IN) (World Bank)	31-12-1992/ 31-12-1993	Delay in financing procurement contracts.	Original Loan-US $345 mln./ Revised Loan-US $ 168 mln.	The loan will be fully utilised before the closing date of 31-12-93.
8	Railway-I (LN-857-IND)(ADB)	31-1-1993/ 31-3-1997	Delay in finalising contracts for procurement of locomotives	Original Loan-US $190 mln./ Revised Loan-US $190 mln.	The contract for procurement of locomotives has since been finalised and no escalation cost is expected except due to exchange rate adjustment.
9	1st Telecom (ADB)	28-2-1993/ 30-6-1995	Change in scope of the project due to development of indigenous technology and delay in finalisation of contracts for procurement.	Original Loan-US $135 mln./Revised Loan-US $ 125 mln.	The entire project is expected to be completed by the loan closing date of 30-6-1995.
10	2nd Telecom (ADB)	31-12-1992/ 31-12-1994.	Delay in finalising contracts	Original Loan-US $118 mln./Revised Loan-US $ 68 mln.	The project is expected to be completed by the closing date of 31-12-94.
11	Private Voluntary Organisation for Health-II (USAID)	30-9-1995/ 31-8-1997	(i) Expansion of project scope (ii) Delay in construction activities (iii) Delay in procurement of equipment.	US $ 13.41 mln. US $ 13.41 mln. US $ 21.66 mln.	Project authorities requested to review the project activities on regular basis so as to adhere to the time schedule.
12	Plant Genetic Resources (USAID)	30-9-1995/ 30-9-1997	(iv) Poor response from private organisations under PVOH II.	US $ 23.95 mln. US $ 1.35 mln./	
13	Contraceptive Development and Research in Immunology (USAID).	31-5-1998/ 31-12-1999		US $ 4.27 mln.	

1	2	3	4	6	6
14	Tehri Hydro Power Complex (2400 MW) and Associated Transmission System (800 KV) (USSR)	27-11-86/ For former USSR credits there is no closing date for utilisation of the credit.	With the disintegration of the Soviet Union in December, 1991, the availability of the credit is not clear. Hence the project is affected for want of funds.	Rs. 5058 cr./ Rs. 5583 cr.	Considering the constraint of funds and escalation of cost, it has been decided to take up initially Tehri Stage-I.
15	Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) (NORAD)	31-12-1993/Delayed by one year	The Contract between NIC and NORSK Data has been terminated as the latter sold part of its assets and copyright for software package to an American Firm. NIC was thus forced to issue fresh tender notices.	Rs. 9.04 cr.	NIC is evaluationg fresh bids.
16	Koraput Rayagada Railway Line Project, (Saudi Fund for Development)	30-9-1990/ 31-12-1993	Various constraints like late clearance of forest grown area, difficult terrain, shortage of labour, frequent breakdown of contractor's machinery, etc.	Rs. 112.1 cr./ Rs. 405.1 cr.	Adequate steps such as increase in rates of contractors have been taken.
17	Ramagundam Thermal Power Project Stage-II (Saudi Fund for Development)	31-12-1991/ 31-3-1994	The Implementation of the project was slow initially.	Rs. 1518 cr./ Rs. 2083.14 cr.	Adequate steps have been taken to improve the speed of the implementation of the project.
18	Jawarlal Nehru Port Trust Project. (Saudi Fund for Development)	31-12-1990/ 31-12-1993	There has been some delay in implementation of the project mainly due to slow work by different contractors.	Rs. 506 cr./ Rs. 1094.2 cr.	The township which has been financed by Saudi Fund for Development has been completed, taken over and are in occupation substantially.

19	IFFCO Fertiliser Plants Rehabilitation Project. (OPEC fund for development)	31-12-1991/ 31-12-1993	Delay in granting the government clearances and effectiveness of the loan agreement has delaved implementation of the project.	Rs. 131 86 cr./ Rs. 97.62 cr.	Implementation of the project and utilisation of loan has been speeded up.
20	Gas Pipeline (IDP-37) (Japan)	18-12-1993/ 17-12-1995	Because of court case between GAIL and the consortium of Foreign Companies.	Yen 18904 million/ Yen 18904 million	GAIL asked to expedite court cases.
21	Tourism Infrastructure Dev. Project (IDP-54) (Japan)	20-1-1994 20-1-1996	Delayed start because of infrastructure problems and problems because of availability of funds by State Governments.	Yen 9244 million/ Yen 9244 million	Min. of Tourism advised to monitor implementation on a regular basis.
22	Rolling Stock Modernisation Workshop Prj. (IDP-68) (Japan	27-3-1995/ 27-3-1996	Non-conclusion of consultancy contract with the foreign company.	Yen 1256 million/ Yen 1256 million	Matter being followed up with OECF and Railway Board. Consultancy contract likely to be concluded shortly.

23 HBJ Gas Pipeline (French Assistance)

GAIL awarded in May, 1986 a firm and fixed price multi-currency contract to a Consortium led by M/s. Spie Capag of France covering a construction of the HBJ pipeline project. The contract price of approximately US $568 million at prevailing rates was to include all costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in the execution, completion and handing over of the work. There were delays in various sections of the work involving several revision in changes of agreed time schedule. GAIL levied liquidated damages of US 42.27 meillion. The consortium may counter claims for payment amounting to approximately US $ 450 million. The progress of the project has been suspended since then. In March, 1993 a joint Indo-Franch Committee's was Constituted to review the matters in dispute. The Joint Committee will give its recommendations in due course.

24 Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project in J&K (French Assistance)

The turnkey project awarded to a French consortium of firms led by M/s. Cegelec was scheduled to be completed in 57 months from October, 1989. (Date of Order to commence work) After August, 1992, the work was suspended because of deteriorating security conditions in the project area. The French Consortium raised issues regarding geological conditions and disputes regarding contract opeations. A High Level Committee set up in Ministry of Power, submitted its report in May, 1993 indicating that it should be possible to complete the project by June, 1996. A proposal is presently under examination by NHPC.